



INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County (LAC) Overall, influenza has been increasing in Los Angeles County. The percent positive of influenza tests increased in weeks 24 and 25 (Figure 1) suggesting that the high number of positive tests is due to a true increase in disease and not just increased testing. Eight new ILI (influenza-like illness) outbreaks occurred in schools and camps during weeks 24 and 25. The percent of ED visits due to ILI is higher relative to the same time in previous years.

Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 25	2008-2009 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests [±]	14.3	5.6
Percent Positive RSV Tests [‡]	0.0	13.7
Percent Flu A / Flu B [±]	99 / 1	76 / 24
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases [†]	0	11 (0)
Respiratory Outbreaks	2	41

*See <http://publichealth.org/acd/flu.htm> for a description of surveillance methods.

± Sentinel sites (6 participating facilities).

‡ Sentinel sites (3 participating facilities).

†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

California After two weeks of regional influenza activity during weeks 22 and 23, influenza activity in California was upgraded to **widespread** in week 24 (June 14-June 20) due to an increase in lab reports of novel H1N1 throughout the state.

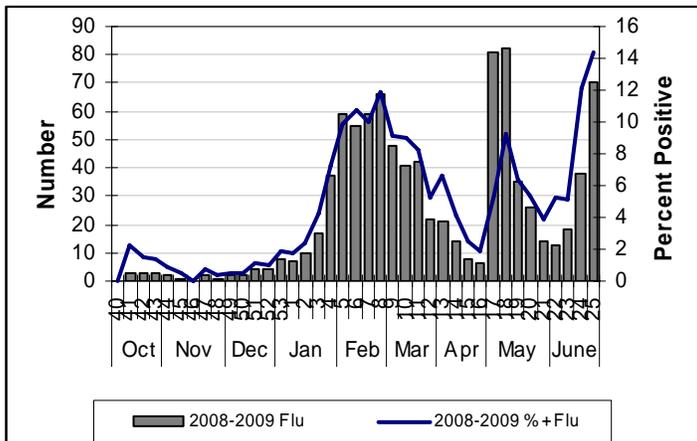
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/PROGRAMS/VRDL/Pages/CaliforniaInfluenzaSurveillanceProject.aspx>

United States Relative to week 23, influenza activity decreased slightly across the United States in week 24 with 12 states reporting widespread activity, 7 states reporting regional activity, 11 states reporting local activity, and 20 states reporting sporadic activity. However, there were still higher levels of ILI than normal for this time of year. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>

In the News

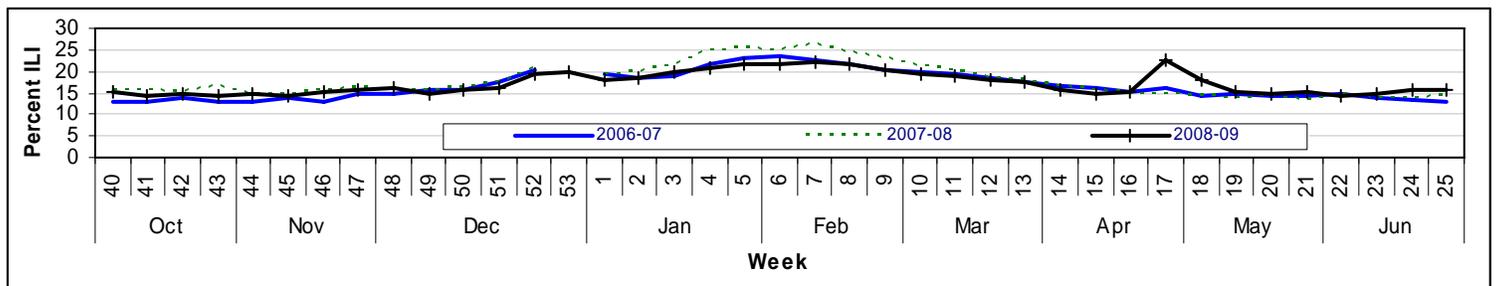
Just as novel H1N1 has crowded out seasonal flu, news on novel H1N1 has crowded out news on seasonal flu. A recent article in Science Magazine (<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/summary/325/5936/17>) by the CDC described the comparison of novel H1N1 to seasonal H1N1 in ferrets. Novel H1N1 appeared to have slightly greater virulence than seasonal influenza but did not transmit as efficiently. However, since ferrets are not humans we don't know how these data reflect human transmission or morbidity. While infection control may be the primary means to control influenza (wash hands, cover nose/mouth), a vaccine against novel H1N1 is slated for release in the Fall. This vaccine would be in addition to the standard seasonal influenza vaccine and may require 2 doses for optimal response. See: <http://www.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/07/01/swine.flu.h1n1.vaccine/index.html>.

Figure 1: Total Positive Flu and % Positive Flu by Week



*Influenza data represent testing completed in nine facilities except for weeks 22-25 where influenza data represent testing completed in 7 facilities.

Figure 2: Percent of ED Visits for ILI by Week





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Breakdown of Novel H1N1 Cases in Los Angeles County

Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus by Age Group Los Angeles County as of June 27, 2009		
Age Group (years)	All Cases Total (%)	Hospitalized Total (%)
0 - 4	22 (6)	6 (18)
5-17	180 (52)	5 (15)
18-29	69 (20)	6 (18)
30-49	45 (13)	10 (30)
50-64	22 (6)	5 (15)
65+	3 (1)	1 (3)
Unknown	3 (1)	0 (0)

Since May 2, 2009 when the first case of novel H1N1 in Los Angeles County was identified, a total of 344 cases have been reported to Public Health of which 33 have been hospitalized. Hospitalizations seemed to have increased in the past several weeks as novel H1N1 has disseminated throughout the County. While the majority of outpatient cases have occurred in school age children (ages 5-17), the plurality of hospitalizations has occurred in adults aged 30-49. Almost all of the patients admitted to the intensive care unit had pre-existing conditions which would make them at higher risk for severe complications of influenza. This parallels trends in the United States and California. For more information on testing, treating, and preventing influenza in Los Angeles County go to: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/Diseases/Swine.htm>.

Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus: Case Characteristics Los Angeles County (as of June 27, 2009)				
Case Status	Gender (M %/ F%)	Mean Age (years)	Median Age (years)	Age Range (years)
Hospitalized Cases N=33	50 / 50	29	29	0 - 72
All Cases N=344	51 / 49	20	16	0 - 99

Figure 3: Influenza A Novel H1N1 Hospitalized Cases by Week of Onset as of June 27, 2009

